

- 1     1.     A method, comprising:  
2             detecting movements associated with a locking element based on a sequence of signal  
3     interruptions caused by the movements, the locking element restricting access to a restricted-  
4     access space defined within an enclosure; and  
5             based on the sequence of signal interruptions, actuating the locking element to gain  
6     access to the restricted-access space.
- 1     2.     The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2             representing at least part of the sequence of signal interruptions as a sequence of digital  
3     logic levels;  
4             comparing the sequence of digital logic levels with a previously-entered code to ascertain  
5     an equivalence therebetween; and  
6             based on ascertaining the equivalence, actuating the locking element to gain access to the  
7     restricted-access space.
- 1     3.     The method of claim 2, further comprising:  
2             based on ascertaining the equivalence, identifying a user authorized to access the  
3     restricted-access space.
- 1     4.     The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2             generating an audible signal indicative of at least part of the sequence of signal  
3     interruptions.
- 1     5.     The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2 identifying an operating mode based at least partly on a portion of the sequence of signal  
3 interruptions, the operating mode corresponding to at least one of a code change request and an  
4 access request.

1 6. The method of claim 5, further comprising:  
2 generating an audible signal indicative of the identified operating mode.

1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein detected movements correspond to manipulations of a  
2 door handle.

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the sequence of signal interruptions correspond to  
2 interruptions in an optical signal.

1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the locking element corresponds to a solenoid in a lock.

1 10. The method of claim 1, wherein the enclosure corresponds to at least one of an  
2 automobile, a boat, an airplane, a building, a container, and a cabinet.

1 11. A method, comprising:  
2 detecting movements associated with a user interface based on a sequence of signal  
3 interruptions caused by the movements, the user interface affecting at least one operation of a  
4 vehicle;  
5 comparing indicia of at least a portion of the sequence of signal interruptions with a  
6 previously-stored code; and  
7 based on the comparison, performing the at least one operation of the vehicle.

1 12. The method of claim 11, further comprising:

2 generating a human-perceptible signal indicative of the sequence of signal interruptions.

1 13. The method of claim 11, wherein the user interface corresponds to a door handle of the  
2 vehicle and the detected movements correspond to manipulations of the door handle.

1 14. The method of claim 13, wherein the at least one operation of the vehicle corresponds to  
2 at least one of a manipulation of a locking element restricting access to at least a part of the  
3 vehicle, a manipulation of a window of the vehicle, and an ignition of the vehicle.

1 15. The method of claim 11, wherein the sequence of signal interruptions correspond to  
2 interruptions in an optical signal and the compared indicia correspond to a sequence of digital  
3 logic levels.

1 16. The method of claim 11, wherein the at least one operation of the vehicle corresponds to  
2 at least one of a manipulation of a locking element restricting access to at least a part of the  
3 vehicle, a manipulation of a window of the vehicle, and an ignition of the vehicle.

1 17. A system, comprising:

2 a locking element restricting access to a restricted-access space defined within an  
3 enclosure;

4 a movement-detection element detecting movements associated with the locking element  
5 based on a sequence of signal interruptions caused by the movements; and

6 a control element receiving indicia associated with the sequence of signal interruptions  
7 from the movement-detection element and actuating the locking element to provide access to the  
8 restricted-access space in response thereto.

1 18. The system of claim 17, further comprising:

2           a feedback element generating a human-perceptible signal indicative of at least part of the  
3   sequence of signal interruptions.

1   19.    The system of claim 17, wherein the locking element corresponds to a solenoid in a lock.

1   20.    The system of claim 17, wherein the enclosure corresponds to at least one of an  
2   automobile, a boat, an airplane, a building, a container, and a cabinet.

1   21.    The system of claim 17, wherein the movement-detection element includes a signal  
2   emitter and a signal detector, the signal detector detecting the sequence of signal interruptions in  
3   an optical signal transmitted by the signal emitter.

1   22.    The system of claim 21, wherein the optical signal exhibits an infrared wavelength.

1   23.    The system of claim 21, wherein the signal detector transmits the indicia associated with  
2   the sequence of signal interruptions to the control element.

1   24.    The system of claim 23, wherein the indicia associated with the sequence of signal  
2   interruptions corresponds to a sequence of digital logic levels.

1   25.    The system of claim 17, wherein the control element compares the indicia associated with  
2   the sequence of signal interruptions with a predetermined code to determine whether to actuate  
3   the locking element.

1   26.    The system of claim 17, wherein the control element identifies an operating mode based  
2   at least partly on a portion of the sequence of signal interruptions, the operating mode  
3   corresponding to at least one of a code change request and an access request.